



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, U.S. ARMY MATERIEL COMMAND
5001 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22333-0001

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

AMCRDA-TE

3 July 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Quality of Military Performance Specifications

1. Performance-based requirements are the cornerstone of Military Specification (MilSpec) Reform. Use of performance statements to describe systems and management requirements within solicitations is essential to achieving MilSpec Reform. The Army has made important progress toward accessing commercial management and manufacturing processes.

2. Another essential element of MilSpec Reform is the conversion of detailed specifications (MilSpecs) to Military Performance Specifications (MilPrfs). The Army now has 76 certified MilPrfs of the 968 MilSpecs planned for conversion. Both Army and the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) have reviewed many of the certified MilPrfs and found the quality of the documents varied greatly, even from the same preparing organization. Since we only have 76 MilPrfs in the system now, it is urgent that we correct the poor ones and make necessary changes to the process to ensure that only quality MilPrfs are developed. Examples of common findings are: inclusion of detailed requirements, inappropriate use of detailed drawing packages to describe performance requirements, and conversion to MilPrfs when a commercial item description is more appropriate. A list of common problems was prepared by OSD and distributed at the 7 May 97 Defense Standards Improvement Council (DSIC) meeting (see enclosure).

3. Based on the above, please consider the following actions:

a. Review your command's process for certifying MilPrfs. Determine if there are systemic problems and, if appropriate, re-engineer the certification process.

b. Review all of your MilPrfs which are currently certified.

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c. Inform us of your efforts in your quarterly reporting and Master Action Plan (MAP) updates.


4. The Army must complete all MilSpec conversions by the end of FY 98. Please help us ensure that all MilPrfs certified within your command are of the highest quality.

5. We have offered in the past and continue to offer our support in reviewing these documents, on a non-attribution basis, as part of the normal review process. The new MilPrfs of lower quality were not given to us for review. We again urge that you take advantage of our help and also consider forming a core of experienced MilPrf people in your organization to share knowledge and lessons learned.

6. For additional information please contact the Army Standards Team, AMCRDA-TE, Lynn Mohler, DSN 767-5101, Lucille Davis, DSN 767-6096, Carol Gardinier, DSN 767-5192, or Robert Von Husen, DSN 767-9526.

7. AMC -- America's Arsenal for the Brave.

Encl
as


DALE G. ADAMS
Army Standards
Improvement Executive